

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 11 and ending at page 1, line 20 to read, as follows.

Here, an electrophotographic image forming apparatus means an apparatus which forms an image on a recording medium with the use of an electrophotographic image forming method. Examples of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus include an electrophotographic copying machine, an electrophotographic printer (for example, laser printer, LED printer, etc.), a facsimile machine, a wordprocessor, a combination of two or more of the preceding apparatuses (multifunction printer, etc.), etc.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 9 and ending at page 2, line 24 to read, as follows.

A process cartridge system which has an electrophotographic photoconductive member, and a single or plurality of processing means which act on the electrophotographic photoconductive member, are integrally disposed in a cartridge detachably mountable in the main assembly of an image forming apparatus has long been employed by an electrophotographic image forming apparatus which uses an electrophotographic image forming ~~forming~~ process. According to a process cartridge system, an apparatus can be maintained by a user; ~~user him/herself~~; it is unnecessary to hire a service person. Thus, the employment of a cartridge system drastically improves the apparatus in operational efficiency. Therefore, a cartridge system has been widely used in the field of an image forming apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 22 and ending at page 6, line 8 to read, as follows.

The magnetic material sealing member 151 is provided with an elastic lining 152 formed of an elastic material such as a rubber on an outer peripheral surface side (backside). The elastic lining 152 has a width substantially equal to that of the magnetic material sealing member 151 in a direction parallel with ~~[[to]]~~ the lengthwise direction of the developing roller. A lower end surface 152f of the elastic lining 152 is substantially flush with a lower end surface 151f of the magnetic material sealing member 151, and an upper end surface 125g of the elastic lining 152 is substantially flush with an upper end surface 151g of the magnetic material sealing member 151.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 15 and ending at page 7, line 15 to read, as follows.

Further, the developing means frame 153 is provided with a mounting groove 154 for mounting the magnetic material sealing member 151, which groove extends ~~extending~~ from a flat surface 153i to an arcuate surface 153j as shown in Figure 26. The groove 154 includes an arcuate groove 154a extended along an arcuation of the arcuate surface 153j, a linear groove 154b formed substantially vertically along the flat surface 153j, and a positioning groove 154d, formed in the longitudinal direction of the magnetic material sealing member 151, with which the bent portion 151e of the magnetic material sealing member 151 is engaged. A depth of the positioning groove 154d is equal to a width w1 (Figure 25) of the bent portion 151e plus the thickness of the elastic lining 152 by a compression margin of the elastic lining 152. Further, a lower end surface 154f and an

upper end surface 154g of the arcuate groove 154a are located so that they contact the lower end surface 151f and the upper end surface 151g of the magnetic material sealing member 151, respectively, in a state that the magnetic material sealing member 151 is engaged in the mounting groove 154 for mounting the magnetic material sealing member 151.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 10 and ending at page 8, line 22 to read, as follows.

After the magnetic material sealing member 151 is mounted into the mounting groove 154, as shown in (a) of Figure 28, a developing blade 155 as a developer regulation member for regulating a toner layer thickness on the developing roller 150 is ~~fastened~~ fastened to the developing means frame 153 with screws. The developing blade 155 includes an elastic member 155a and a supporting plate 155b. The elastic member 155a abuts on the developing roller 150 while being curved. The magnetic material sealing member 151 is urged toward the supporting plate 155b side ~~of~~ of the developing blade 155 by a repulsive force of the elastic lining 152.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 23 and ending at page 16, line 17 to read, as follows.

In the following description of the present invention, the lengthwise direction of a process cartridge means the direction (axial direction of an image bearing member) intersectional (roughly perpendicular) to the direction in which a process cartridge is mounted into, or removed from, the main assembly of an image forming apparatus. It is

parallel with ~~[[to]]~~ to the surface of recording medium, and is intersectional (roughly perpendicular) to the direction in which the recording medium is conveyed. The right or left direction means the right or left direction of the recording medium as the recording medium is seen from the rear side in terms of the recording medium conveyance direction. The top surface of a process cartridge means the surface of the process cartridge which will be on the top side after the proper mounting of the process cartridge in the main assembly of an image forming apparatus, and the bottom surface of the process cartridge means the surface of the process cartridge which will be on the bottom side after the proper mounting of the process cartridge in the apparatus main assembly.

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 20, line 3 and ending at page 20, line 5, as follows.

~~The developing apparatus D incorporated into the process cartridge B will be described with reference to Figures 2-4.~~

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 27, line 15 and ending at page 27, line 16 to read, as follows.

(Magnetic material sealing member in display apparatus and mounting ~~Mounting~~ method thereof)

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 30, line 25 and ending at page 31, line 12 to read, as follows.

As shown in Figures 8(a) and 10(a), the magnetic material sealing member 10r has the inner peripheral surface (the developing roller 10d side) in the form of a semicircular arc for creating the gap g2 with the developing roller 10d, and an outer contact surface 10r4, in a semicircular arc, which contacts the first developing means frame 10f1 and the second developing means frame 10f2 on the outer peripheral surface side ~~located~~ ~~locate~~ opposite from the inner peripheral surface 10r3 i.e., on the first and second developing means frame sides). The outer contact surface 10r4 is not provided with an elastic lining as in the conventional magnetic material sealing member but directly contacts grooves provided to the developing means frames.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 33, line 27 and ending at page 34, line 5 to read, as follows.

Then, the elastic member 30 is disposed at the elastic member abutting surface 10r5 of the magnetic material sealing member 10r. The ~~[[he]]~~ elastic member 30 is attached to the elastic member abutting surface 10r5 with the use of adhesive means such as double-faced adhesive tape.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 39, line 20 and ending at page 39, line 21 to read, as follows.

(Mounting and demounting of the process cartridge B, into and from, the image forming apparatus main assembly)

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 42, line 9 and ending at page 42, line 26 to read, as follows.

A second embodiment of the ~~of the~~ magnetic material sealing member according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figures 20 - 23. Figure 20 is a perspective explanatory view of the magnetic material sealing member 10r; Figure 21 is a sectional explanatory view showing a state such that an elastic member 30 is adhered to the magnetic material sealing member 10r; Figure 22 is an explanatory view showing a state of generation of a magnetic field at the magnetic material sealing member 10r; and Figure 23 is a sectional explanatory view showing a positional relationship among the magnetic material sealing member 10r, the elastic blade 30, and the metal plate portion 10e1 of the developing blade 10e. Identical reference numerals and signs ~~signs~~ are used for describing members (dimensions, directions, etc.) identical to those used in Embodiment 1 described above, and explanation thereof is omitted.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 44, line 16 and ending at page 44, line 17 to read, as follows.

Next, countermeasures ~~countermeasure~~ against leaks ~~leak~~ will be described with reference to Figure 23.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 45, line 4 and ending at page 45, line 20 to read, as follows.

In this embodiment, the magnetic material sealing member 10r and the metal plate portion 10e1 are completely placed in a non-contact state. More specifically, minimum

distances between the metal plate portion 10e1 of the developing blade 10e1 and the projection portion 10r10 and between the metal plate portion 10e1 of the developing blade 10e1 and the elastic member abutting surface 10r5 are set to s_2 and s_2 , respectively, determined in view of variations in distance on production, and these distances are set to be larger than a leak limit distance in view of a voltage supplied to the developing roller 10d. As a result, a direct leak from the magnetic material sealing member 10r to the metal plate portion 10e1 does not occur. Further, the elastic member 30 is electrically insulative (i.e., not electroconductive), thus causing no charge transfer therethrough.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 47, line 13 and ending at page 47, line 19 to read, as follows.

Further, it is possible to prevent noises caused by leakage ~~[[leak]]~~ by making the elastic member 30 non-electroconductive without employing additional parts as countermeasure against leakage. ~~[[leak.]]~~ Accordingly, the developing apparatus of the present invention is advantageous in terms of production costs and assembly performance.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 49, line 15 and ending at page 50, line 9 to read, as follows.

The present invention is compatible with: a cartridge in which an electrophotographic photoconductive member, and a developing means are integrally disposed, and which is removably mountable in the main assembly of an image forming apparatus; a cartridge in which an electrophotographic photoconductive member, a developing means, and a charging means or a cleaning means are integrally disposed, and

which is removably mountable in the main assembly of an image forming apparatus; and the like, in addition to the process cartridge B in the above described embodiments of the present invention. In other words, the process cartridge used in the present invention includes at least a developing means and an electrophotographic photosensitive member which are integrally disposed to form a cartridge which is detachably mountable to the main assembly of an image forming apparatus. This process cartridge can be mounted into and demounted from the apparatus main body by a user, ~~user himself/herself~~. Accordingly, maintenance of the apparatus main body can be effected by a user alone.